

preached, the baptisms and christenings he presided over, and the weddings and funerals he performed, Reverend Ferguson was likewise indefatigable in reaching out to the schools and homes, hospitals and community organizations that sought and obtained his sage advice and wisdom.

The longevity of his pastorate in the vineyard of the Lord truly represents a stewardship that is inspiring. He remarkably transformed the Second Baptist Church into one of the most active congregations in Miami-Dade County. His role as spiritual leader and consummate activist has immensely enlightened and guided church members as they tackle the agenda of participatory government based on their God-given conscience and responsibility.

It is fitting for us to pause and reflect on the role that Reverend Ferguson played in the day-to-day affairs of our community during the last 36 years. He has truly personified the example of Christ as the Good Shepherd, leading his flock to become "... the light of the world and salt of the earth" through his preaching of God's word and spreading the good news of the gospels.

I am privileged to enjoy his friendship and confidence, and I will always be grateful for his example of leading us to live by his noble ethic of always loving God through the service of our fellow human beings, especially those who could least fend for themselves.

The testament of his faithful consecration to our community's well-being buttresses the noble legacy he now leaves with us. I extend to him the thanks of our community for a job well done and our best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO ST. KATHERINE DREXEL

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, seventy years ago, Katherine Drexel visited the pristine coastline of Wading River, Long Island at the request of the Reverend Bernard Quinn, who wanted to help her in creating an orphanage for homeless African American children from New York City. So moved by the beauty of the vista and the dire need for the orphanage, Mother Katherine Drexel sent four nuns from the order she created, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, to teach at the Little Flower Institute.

Little Flower was established in 1930 after much opposition from the local residents. It was burnt down twice under mysterious circumstances. Despite the obstacles, Little Flower has grown to one of the largest foster care agencies in New York, providing services to approximately 2,500 children. Death, illness, poverty and substance abuse have claimed the innocence of so many of Little Flower's children. However, all of the people that have been involved in the institute, have given children a ray of hope and a new beginning for over 70 years.

Little Flower is just one of nearly 300 missions and schools, Katherine Drexel built. Re-

jecting the life of a socialite and donating her riches to "the cause of uplifting Indians and Colored People," she dedicated herself to a life of poverty and helping those who needed her the most. She was a woman who was ahead of her time. She afforded people of downtrodden races the respect and love that most others could not. Mother Drexel looks past the color of a person's skin and looks to the inside and the true humanity of each and every person she met.

This week, after the Catholic Church ascribed two miraculous cures of deafness, Mother Katherine Drexel became St. Katherine. She was canonized by Pope John Paul II and joins only three other American saints.

St. Katherine has touched the lives of so many. So many children at Little Flower and other schools throughout the country. So many who had been abandoned by society and left to fend for themselves. So many who needed a person to see the goodness in all. So many who needed and were helped by St. Katherine Drexel.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents I wish to extend my best wishes and congratulations to the people of the Republic of China on the occasion of their forthcoming national day.

The Republic of China on Taiwan is a genuine democracy and its people enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. It is my belief that the story of Taiwan needs to be told again and again.

Meanwhile, best of luck to president Chen Shui-Bian of the Republic of China.

CONGRATULATING THE MIDWAY, TEXAS, ALL-STARS LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THEIR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE WORLD SERIES

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate the Midway All-Stars little league softball team for taking home the trophy for the Girls' Little League Softball World Series.

On August 19th, these young women, ages 11 and 12, ended another outstanding season. The Midway girls are eight-time world champions, having also won the world title in 1997, 1998 and 1999. They also were world champions from 1992-1995.

I think it is safe to say that the team dominated in the 1990s and has already captured the first championship in the new millennium. The latest Midway girls' triumph was inter-

national in scope as teams from the Philippines, Germany, Canada and the United States competed for the title of world champion.

Before heading to the championships, this year's squad had to get through teams at the district, sectional, state, and southern region levels. The team consists of girls from the small community of Hewitt/Woodway right outside of Waco in the heart of Texas' 11th Congressional District.

Members of this world championship team include Ashley Davilla, Rachel Fahlenkamp, Courtney Heard, Kacy Horn, Emily Lindsey, Hannah McGrew, Destinee Mordecai, Bethany Northern, Amanda Pack, Natalie Pendley, Rebecca Pryor, Brandi Rawls, Kelsey Sage, Elissa Stiba.

These young ladies have shown what it takes to win: teamwork, hard work, self-discipline and commitment. These same qualities will continue to serve them throughout their lives.

The team was very capably led by a coaching staff that includes Randy Sage, Kyle Heard and Andy Horn. They devoted many hours to the girls and their sacrifice was key to this victory.

I ask members to join me in congratulating this year's world series team and their coaches for this outstanding athletic accomplishment.

HONORING JOHN F. GARDE OF ILLINOIS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding constituent from Illinois, John F. Garde. Mr. Garde will soon be retiring as the Executive Director of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) after 17 years of service. I am very pleased to honor the distinguished career of John F. Garde for his contributions to the practice of anesthesia from my state of Illinois.

The AANA is the professional association that represents over 27,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Founded in 1931, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists is the professional association representing CRNAs nationwide. As you may know, CRNAs administer more than 65 percent of the anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia provider in two-thirds of all rural hospitals, affording these medical facilities obstetrical, surgical and trauma stabilization capabilities. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered including hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and plastic surgeons.

John received his anesthesia training in 1957 from St. Francis Hospital School of Anesthesia in LaCrosse, WI and began practicing at the U.S. Public Health Hospital in Detroit, Michigan the following year. Having been a